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By the Queene.



As much as upon the lamentable complaint made unto the Queenes most excellent Maiestie by sundrye her louing subiectes, the Clothiers of diuers partes of the Realme, & of a multitude of other people mainteined in their handlabours by them: It appeareth that partly through the great death of sheepe which of late yeeres hath hap- pened in sundry partes of the Realme, & partlie through the great abuse of some which haue obteyned (vpon reasonable consyderations) licence to buy and sell wooll within this Realme, who through their insatiable greedinesse by abuse thereof, without any regarde had to the great myscheefe that thereby groweth to the common wealth, haue not only bled in the begynnyng of the yeere, and at other times, to engrosse and buy by great quantitties of wooll, contrary to her Maiesties good and gracious meanyng, whereupon the sayde licences were graunted: but in passyng the bondes of their licences, by buyyng verely greater quantitie of wooll then they ought to do, so that the Clothiers can buy litle or none, but suche as is very course, or els at suche excessive prices, as they can not make theyr principal thereof agayne: whereby her Maiestie vnderstandeth, that without some restraynt of the sayde licences for some reasonable tyme, there shall folowe great want to the Clothiers to continue theyr trade, for maynte- nance aswel of them selues, as of great multitudes of poore people liuing only vnder them, to the decay of diuers good townes, whiche are cheefely maynteyned by the Clothiers. Therefore by the aduice of her Counsell, her Maiestie straghtly chargeth and commaundeth, that from and after the publication of this present Proclamation, no person, (other then suche as by the lawes of this Realme are appoynted and permitted) shall vpon payne of her Maiesties dis- pleasure, and imprisonment duryng her pleasure, by him or her selfe, or by any other, either directly, or indirectly, by vertue of any theyr special licence, buy or bargayne for any woolles whatsoever, of the growing of this Realme, or of wales, at any tyme before the feast of all Saintes next ensuing the publication hereof. And that all persons, hauyng at this tyme any graunt from her Maiestie, to licence him or them to buye or sell wooll, shall within two monethes af- ter the publication hereof, exhibite into her Court of Exchequer the same graunt, to be enrolled there, whereby her Maiestie may be enfourmed of the contentes thereof, and so as (when time shall be to remit the bte thereof) order may be taken howe the same may be hereafter ordered and bled, without suche publique damage to the Realme, as alredeye hath appeared: And yf the same shall not be presented to be enrolled within the sayde tyme, that then the same shall not hereafter haue place to be bled. And for the better execution hereof, her highnesse by the aduice aforesayde, straght- ly chargeth and commaundeth al and singuler Justices of the peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, and Bayliffes, not only to see this Proclamation truely executed, but also yf any person be iustly accused before him or them for contemnyng or brea- kyng this Proclamation, or anye parte thereof, they shall commit suche person to ward, there to remayne without bayle or maynepryce, tyl her Maiesties pleasure be further knowen. Moreouer her highnesse, meanyng to leaue no- thyng vndone that may tende to the redresse of so great a myscheefe as were otherwyle lyke to ensue, hath taken order that the company of the Marchantes Staplers, that they nor anye of them (notwithstanding that by the statutes of this Realme, they be permitted without limitation of tyme) shall not buy or bargayne, either directly, or indirectly, for any woolles growyng within this Realme, vntyl the latter ende of februarye next ensuing. And in case the sayd Com- pany, or any of them, shall contrary to the sayde order, presume to buy or bargayne for any woolles: then her Maiestie, vpon notice geuen vnto her priue Counsell, of the persons that shall so offende, wyll cause the sayde parties to receiue suche punishment, as shall be due for theyr contempt in that behalfe.

Geuen at Hampton Court the xxviii. day of Nouember. 1576. in the. xix. yerc of her Maiesties most prosperous raigne.

God saue the Queene.

Imprinted at London by Richarde Iugge, Printer to the Queenes Maiestie.

Cam priuilegio Regie Maestatis.